

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/064,423
Docket No.: 8853-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

In the Office Action dated March 09, 2006, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guoxing et al. (0-7803-4859-1/98 IEEE "A Modified Current Mode Hamming Neural Network for Totally Unconstrained Handwritten Numeral Recognition", hereinafter "Guoxing") in view of Maeda (US-4,752,957, hereinafter "Maeda"), and further in view of Yang et al. (US-6,707,496, hereinafter "Yang").

In response to the aforementioned claim rejections, the following traversal of the the above claim rejections and claim amendments are presented herein.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guoxing et al. (0-7803-4859-1/98 IEEE "A Modified Current Mode Hamming Neural Network for Totally Unconstrained Handwritten Numeral Recognition", hereinafter "Guoxing") in view of Maeda (US-4,752,957, hereinafter "Maeda"), and further in view of Yang et al. (US-6,707,496, hereinafter "Yang").

Regarding claim 1, the element "extraction unit" clearly comprises a "connected component detector (CCD) feature extractor" as described in Paragraph [0012] of the present invention. On the other hand, Maeda teaches of a "CCD (charged Coupled Device) sensors" in col. 9, line 68 – col. 10, line 3 in Maeda. In addition, Yang teaches of a "charge coupled device (CCD) sensor" in col. 1, line 13. Therefore, because the connected component detector and the charge coupled devices are different and not equivalent as would be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the present invention is

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clearly directed to solve a problem of a different nature (pertaining to connected component detector) based upon the teachings and knowledge of prior art as opposed to the charged coupled device taught in Maeda and Yang. Based upon the following quoted section from MPEP 2143.01, it is clearly evident that the motivation to combine Maeda and Yang with Guoxing is not present.

According to MPEP 2143.01, "[t]here are three possible sources for a motivation to combine references: the nature of the problem to be solved, the teachings of the prior art, and the knowledge of persons of ordinary skill in the art." *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357, 47 USPQ2d 1453, 1457-58 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The level of skill in the art cannot be relied upon to provide the suggestion to combine references. *Al-Site Corp. v. VSI Int'l Inc.*, 174 F.3d 1308, 50 USPQ2d 1161 (Fed. Cir. 1999)."

Furthermore, "fuzzy logic and cellular neural network" is a subject matter described in claim 1 in the present invention. On the other hand, Yang teaches a different subject matter of "a color CMOS image sensor for image processing", which is explicitly and inherently described in col. 1, lines 41-48 and col. 3, lines 27-58. Once again, Yang includes another difference in the nature of the problem to be solved.

Without Maeda and Yang, Guoxing is clearly insufficient to be used alone in a rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Indeed as was previously discussed in detail in the Response to Office Action filed on December 21, 2005, the following features in the amended Claim 1: "an extraction unit using cellular neural network for receiving a scanned image having a plurality of input features, wherein the extraction unit is constructed of 24 cascaded cells to form a plurality of cell circuits" is patentable over

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Guoxing. (Assuming that Maeda and Yang had failed to qualify as valid references for use in an obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103(a) as traversed above).

Furthermore, claim 1 is amended to include features and limitations described in paragraphs [0028] and [0029] and in FIG. 2 of the present invention, therefore, no new matter has been added. Therefore, even if Guoxing, Maeda, and Yang were to be used altogether as references under the 35 USC 103(a) rejections, the amended claim 1 is still patentable over the cited references, and should be allowed.

Pending the allowance of claim 1, claims 2-7 are also patentable over Guoxing in view of Maeda, and further in view of Yang.

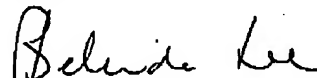
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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-8 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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